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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renovation of Emergency Department at VA Medical Center to Start

Memphis, Tennessee – Beginning Monday, April, 28, 2014, the Emergency Department (ED) at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee will begin undergoing renovation and expansion to improve urgent care delivery and access for patients being seen in the ED. This approximately \$5 million project will be underway for the next 1.5 years. The work is planned in three phases, each phase taking approximately six months to complete.

Many changes have taken place in preparation for the beginning of the project. A primary change is the relocation of the Admissions area to the first floor of the Bed Tower. Beginning Monday, April, 28, the East entrance to the Administration Building off of Jefferson Avenue will be closed. This entrance will remain permanently closed after the completion of the project. All pedestrian traffic entering the building from the East parking lot (patient/visitor parking lot) and the employees' parking lot (South lot, corner of Jefferson and Somerville) will be able to enter the building on the Jefferson Avenue side of the property through the Lab Entrance or the Jefferson Avenue main entrance. To alleviate congestion at the other entrances, it is recommended that employees enter through the Lab Entrance.

Only those patients with true emergent, life threatening issues will be permitted to enter through the Emergency entrance. To keep lanes of traffic clear in this area, all personal vehicles used to transport these patients must be moved as soon as the patient is attended to by ED staff. This restriction will be in effect throughout the first and second phases of the project. The Emergency entrance will be closed during the third phase, at which time all patients will enter through the Jefferson Avenue main entrance.

Those patients who feel they need to be urgently seen in the ED, but whose conditions may not be life threatening, should enter through the main Jefferson Avenue entrance. Staff will be available to assist them in determining whether they need to go to the ED or to

another area. All walk-in patients and those with scheduled appointments will enter through the main Jefferson Avenue entrance.

Ambulances and emergency care vehicles will continue to use the Ambulance Entrance. All pedestrian traffic will need to use the sidewalk along Jefferson Avenue to reach entrances.

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